

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4111
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2001
IDENTIFICATION OF BPL FAMILIES
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether most of the States and Union Territories have not yet completed identification of BPL (below poverty line) families, a pre-requisite for effective implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) by when the same will be completed?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a), (b) and (c) PDS is operated under the joint responsibility of Govt. of India and the State Governments/UT Administrations. While the Central Government is responsible for procuring and making available to the States the PDS commodities up to the designated depots of FCI, identification of households living below poverty line (BPL) and distribution of food grains to the cardholders through the network of Fair Price Shops rests with the State Governments. Identification of beneficiaries i.e., families living below poverty line (BPL) is the most critical element for effective implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) which is carried out by the State Governments/UT Administration. Statewise number of BPL families is based on poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for the year 1993-94 adopting the methodology of 'Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and number of poor' under the Chairmanship of late Prof. Lakdawala .

All State Governments/UT Administrations except Lakshadweep have identified BPL families with varying degree of efficiency. Identification of BPL families is an ongoing process and requires to be reviewed at regular intervals to take into account the mobility of the households across the poverty line. Irrespective of the number of BPL families identified by the State Governments, subsidised food grains under TPDS are released for the number of BPL estimates given by Planning Commission.